

REMARKS

Claims 19 to 30, 40 and 46 remain in the application, with Claims 31 to 38, 41, 43, 44 and 47 having been cancelled, and Claims 19, 20, 21, 22, 26 to 29, 40 and 46 having been amended. Claims 19, 40 and 46 are the independent claims. Favorable review and early passage to issue are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated April 22, 2003, Claims 19 to 24, 31, 32, 40, 41, 43, 44, 46 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,991,276 (Yamamoto) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,174,250 (Jong), and Claims 25 to 30 and 33 to 38 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yamamoto in view of Jong and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,404,747 (Berry). Applicant submits that the amended independent Claims presented herein are believed to allowable over the applied art for at least the following reasons.

The present invention concerns controlling distribution of data among a plurality of connected communication terminals including dedicated terminals (such as video conferencing terminals) via a first network and general-purpose terminals (such as a personal computer) via a second network different from the first network. According to the invention, first image data is generated for the dedicated terminals, and second image data is generated for the general-purpose terminals. Voice data that has been entered to the data communication control apparatus from one of the dedicated terminals is recognized to generate text data based upon the recognized voice data. A controller controls a way of distributing data corresponding to the plurality of connected communication terminals. Then, the text data generated from the voice data is distributed to the general-purpose

terminal with the second image data, and the voice data is distributed to the dedicated terminals with the first image data.

As a result, voice data can be distributed by the control apparatus to both the dedicated terminals with the first image data and to the general-purpose terminals with the second image data so that participation in a video conference can be achieved for users of both video conference terminals and via text-chat for users of the general-purpose terminals.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 19 is a data communication control apparatus for controlling distribution of data among a plurality of connected communication terminals including dedicated terminals via a first network and general-purpose terminals via a second network different from the first network, comprising an image generating device adapted to generate first image data for the dedicated terminals, and second image data for the general-purpose terminals, a voice recognition device adapted to recognize voice data that has been entered to the data communication control apparatus from one of the dedicated terminals and to generate text data based upon the recognized voice data, a control device adapted to control a way of distributing data corresponding to the plurality of connected communication terminals, and a data distributing device adapted to distribute the text data, generated from the voice data by the voice recognition device, to the general-purpose terminal with the second image data, and to distribute the voice data to the dedicated terminals with the first image data.

Amended independent Claims 40 and 46 are method and recording medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 19.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 19, 40 and 46. In particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of controlling a way of distributing data corresponding to a plurality of connected communication terminals including dedicated terminals via a first network and general-purpose terminals via a second network different from the first network, and distributing text data, generated from voice data, to the general-purpose terminal with second image data, and distributing the voice data to the dedicated terminals with first image data.

Yamamoto is merely seen to disclose a video conference system that includes a plurality of video conference terminals, a video conference server and a video conference administrator. The Office Action admits that Yamamoto fails to disclose a voice recognition means and therefore, Yamamoto can not control distribution of text data generated from voice data recognized by a voice recognition device, much less distribute text data, generated from voice data, to the general-purpose terminal with second image data, and distribute the voice data to the dedicated terminals with first image data.

Moreover, the video conference equipment and user terminals of Yamamoto are all part of the same network and are not part of two different networks. Therefore, Yamamoto also fails to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of controlling a way of distributing data corresponding to a plurality of connected communication terminals including dedicated terminals via a first network and general-purpose terminals via a second network different from the first network.

Jong is merely seen to disclose a system that provides for chat over the Internet. Speech input at one side is converted to text, with the converted text being

transmitted to the other side, where the text may be displayed or may be converted to speech. Thus, Jong merely provides for speech-text conversion in Internet chat. However, nothing in Jong discloses or suggests that the text has associated image data that is distributed to a general-purpose terminal. In addition, in Jong, the speech-text and text-speech conversion is performed in the communication terminals and not in the control apparatus. That is, in Jong, a user's speech is converted into text, with the converted text being transmitted over the Internet to the receiving terminal, where the received text may then be converted into speech. Thus, nothing in Jong is seen to disclose or to suggest a control apparatus that has a voice recognition means that recognizes voice data that has been entered to the control apparatus from communication terminals and generates text data based upon the recognized voice data. Accordingly, Jong is not seen to disclose or to suggest this feature of the present invention.

Moreover, like Yamamoto, Jong merely involves the same network and does not disclose that the terminals are part of two different networks. Therefore, Jong also fails to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of controlling a way of distributing data corresponding to a plurality of connected communication terminals including dedicated terminals via a first network and general-purpose terminals via a second network different from the first network.

Berry is not seen to add anything to overcome the deficiencies of Yamamoto and Jong and is also not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of controlling a way of distributing data corresponding to a plurality of connected communication terminals including dedicated terminals via a first network and general-purpose terminals via a second network different from the first network, and distributing text data, generated from

voice data, to the general-purpose terminal with second image data, and distributing the voice data to the dedicated terminals with first image data.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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